



CITY OF KIRKLAND
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MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager

From: David Barnes, Senior Planner
Adam Weinstein, Planning and Building Director

Date: November 6, 2020

Subject: Final Review of Kirkland Sustainability Master Plan

Recommendation

Review the final draft of the Sustainability Master Plan (see Attachment 1) and adopting Resolution. Provide comments or ask questions of staff as preparations are made for final adoption on at the December 8 City Council meeting. Staff recommends that the Council carefully reviews the "Implementation" section (Pages 73-93) that outlines priority actions and timelines for implementing the Plan.

Background

In January 2019, the City embarked on the development of a Sustainability Master Plan (SMP) which is included in the 2019-2020 City Work Program and is intended to identify best practices that allow Kirkland's many sustainability strategies to be implemented and measured, along with other actions needed to achieve a livable and sustainable community.

At the [February 4, 2020 City Council Study Session](#), staff reintroduced the guiding principles for the SMP and discussed the format and overall organization of the plan, including the plan's thematic sections.

At the [August 4, 2020 City Council Meeting](#), staff presented a high-level overview of the draft SMP. Because Council comments at this meeting focused on big-picture elements of the SMP, staff created a Council Comment Matrix to assist in a more detailed examination of the plan's actions and policy-related questions.

At the [September 15, 2020 City Council Study Session](#) staff presented and Council discussed and provided direction on eight policy related questions from the SMP Council Comment Matrix. At the conclusion of the study session, staff asked Council to identify the remaining issues they would like to discuss at a future Council meeting.

At the [October 20, 2020 City Council Meeting](#), staff presented twelve items from the Council Comment Matrix.

Following the October 20, 2020 Council meeting, staff compiled Council feedback from the previous meetings and updated the Council Comment Matrix (see Attachment 2) and the draft SMP.

Policy Discussions

The following 20 items (discussed during the September 15 and October 20, 2020 Council meetings) were identified for Council discussion and direction to resolve and develop appropriate revisions to the draft SMP. The items are called out below with a summarized response which explains how staff addressed the Council feedback. The full text of goals or actions are memorialized in the disposition column of the updated Council Comment Matrix (see Attachment 2)

1. Electrification of Vehicles

Proposed Action ES- 4.6: Consider policy to dedicate % of fuel tax toward support of electrification of transportation, such as building additional charging stations at city facilities and parks.

- Since the fuel tax cannot be used for this purpose, the item was addressed by revising this action that directs the City to develop a policy to establish revenue source to support electrification of transportation.

2. Active Transportation

Action LT-4.10: Develop alternative standards for safe pedestrian travel when building sidewalks is prohibitive.

- Added a revised version of this new action to the SMP that will help the City develop criteria for alternative sidewalk configurations for safe pedestrian travel when traditional sidewalks are infeasible

3. Energy Supply

Action ES-2.2: Consider supporting the formation of an Eastside Public Utility District that secures 100% renewable electricity that is equitably priced for the entire community, if Puget Sound Energy is not meeting its CETA goals

- Item was addressed by revising this action to provide a report to the Council at a future date that addresses the costs, benefits, complexities, and risks regarding an Eastside Public Utility District.

4. Distributed Renewal Energy

Proposed Action ES- 3.3: Consider revisions to remove barriers and provide incentives for solar in land use regulations.

- This action was added to the SMP as written to encourage solar system installations. Glare from solar facilities would be evaluated as part of this work program task.

5. **New Construction and Development**

Proposed Action BI-2.2: Consider requirement for buildings in business districts to be built to high performing building standards.

- The action was revised to include consider both incentives and requirements to promote high performing building standards in business districts

6. **New Construction and Development**

Proposed Action BI-2.3: Require buildings as part of Council-approved Master Plans/Development Agreements/Planned Unit Developments to be high performing green buildings, charger ready, no pipeline gas.

- Revised action to use incentives to encourage and not require high performing green buildings for Council approved projects.

7. **New Construction and Development (Withdrawn)**

Proposed Action BI-2.4: Consider policy for performance standards for ARCH-constructed affordable housing.

- Discussed this action, which was withdrawn. Staff will provide energy performance industry contacts to ARCH for consideration of how these projects can be more energy efficient.

8. **Active Transportation (AT)**

Proposed Action LT- 4.8: Update markings for all bicycle lanes that are not protected by 2025.

- This action was revised to provide direction to update the markings for all bicycle lanes that are not protected, consistent with current standards.

9. **Waste Reduction (Objection Withdrawn)**

Proposed Action SM 3.2: Enact policy to ~~support reduction of~~ eliminate single use food serviceware, including straws and utensils

- The original language of this action was retained to support the reduction of single use food serviceware, including straws and utensils.

10. **Green Business**

Proposed Action SB-1.4: Support reduction of or elimination of gas-powered landscaping equipment.

- This goal was added after clarifying it is focused solely on municipal operations. Also, the City would "explore" a reduction or elimination.

11. Conservation and Stewardship

Proposed Goal EV-7 and Action EV-7.1: Explore the elimination of all use of synthetic pesticides in City operations and designate all parks with playgrounds as pesticide free parks.

- Goal EV-7 was revised to aspire to eliminate the use of synthetic pesticides on city properties. Staff notes that it may be more difficult to eliminate synthetic pesticides on certain types of public properties like roads.
- Action EV-7.1 was revised and the city will explore designating parks and playgrounds as synthetic pesticide free.

12. Conservation and Stewardship

Proposed Goal and Action: As Council in parallel is adopting our framework to respond to Racial Justice issues and Black Lives Matter, I think we will want to have a goal and action in this plan regarding undoing systemic racism.

- A new goal and action have been created that are designed to continue the work to achieve the intent of City of Kirkland Resolution R-5434.

13. Conservation and Stewardship

Proposed Action EV-7.2: Add improvements to CIP that eliminate the need for pesticide use.

- This action was revised to clarify that City projects should be designed to eliminate the need for synthetic pesticides.

14. City Operations

Proposed Action SG-5.5: Consider appointing a citizen Sustainability Commission by 2025 to advise City Council on implementation status of this plan and recommendations for future revisions as conditions change.

- This action was revised to consider involving community members (including Boards and Commissions) in advising City Council on implementation of this plan and future revisions.

15. Access to Parks and Open Space

Proposed Action EV 9.1: Conduct an accessibility review of parks, and recreation facilities and facilities with the 2021 update of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan for the purpose of creating an action plan for needed improvements

- This action was revised to insert language to undertake an accessibility and inclusivity review with all future PROS plan updates.

16. Access to Parks and Open Space

Proposed Action EV 8.1: "Sign the national "10-minute walk" initiative.

- This policy was revised to cross reference a similar goal in the PROS plan, which is to ensure that all community members are within a ¼ mile or 10-minute walk from a park.

17. Recycling and Composting

Proposed Action SM- 4.5: Increase multi-family and commercial recycling and Composting.

- This action was revised to memorialize that the City can look at innovative measures to increase multi-family and commercial recycling and composting.

18. Sustainable Food Systems

Proposed Goal HC-1: Increase the number and geographic diversity of P-Patches or other types of community gardens by 100% by 2025, and another 100% by 2030

- This goal was revised to be more ambitious to add five more p-patches or community gardening spaces by 2025, and to double it by 2030.

19. Buildings and Infrastructure - Electrification

Council Comment: Some of the recommendations or goals could lead to increased housing costs. Given our sensitivity and priority around housing affordability, can the plan somehow identify those items that could lead to higher housing costs over time? Obviously, those costs would need to be weighed against the public benefits that are gained. For example, how do the net zero requirements impact overall housing costs?

- Information was presented about costs and benefits and more information will be provided as part of future work plan items on the effects of building electrification and net-zero energy buildings on housing affordability.

20. Implementation Plan

Council Comment: I am really interested in an Action Plan, what are the next steps in the process, what are the timelines, and what are the costs?

- The implementation matrix in the draft SMP will be a useful guide that can help us prioritize based on cost, ease of completing the action and staff capacity.
- Cost/benefit information will accompany proposals to implement the elements of the plan and policies and actions will be implemented as resources allow.

- Staff will provide an annual progress update at a Council meeting and at a sustainability summit.
- The SMP should have a major update every 10 years and a minor update every 5 years, but could also be amended when technology, legislative and other changes happen that require adjustments/updates.

Public Feedback

The community can provide comment to staff and Council up until Council adoption of this plan. Staff created a Public Comment Matrix (see Attachment 3) to summarize public comment for Council consideration. Staff has addressed many of the community's comments in the draft plan and will keep a separate list to consider addressing these comments in the future.

Next Steps

Staff is seeking final comments and input to the SMP and the adopting Resolution. Staff will incorporate any Council comments into the final draft SMP and present the Plan and resolution for adoption at the December 8 Council meeting.

Attachments

1. Draft SMP
2. Council Comment Matrix
3. Public Comment Summary